

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00624 201243Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05  
CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 TRSE-00 OES-02 ACDA-10 EB-03  
OMB-01 L-01 PRS-01 /055 W  
-----202108Z 113889 /73

R 201130Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0928  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0624

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IR  
SUBJ: SHAH NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW RECEIVES MAJOR EXPOSURE HERE

REF: (A) TEHRAN 0468, (B) 76 TEHRAN A-223

1. SHAH NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW (REF A) GIVEN FEATURE PLAY IN ALL TEHRAN NEWSPAPERS JAN 18 AND TEXT READ ON NIRTV EVENING NEWS JAN 17. SHAH HAS GIVEN SEVERAL INTERVIEWS OVER PAST TWO MONTHS, BUT SCOPE AND PROMINENCE OF PRESENTATION HERE HIGHLY UNUSUAL. THIS AND OTHER INDICATIONS (SEPTTEL FOR DEPT) SUGGEST SHAH BECOMING ANXIOUS OVER TURN OF EVENTS IN REGION AND USING THIS INTERVIEW AND OTHERS TO EXPRESS CONCERN AND UNCERTAINTY OVER INVOLVING REGIONAL SITUATION AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT ATTITUDES OF NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

2. LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS FOCUSED ON BROADER POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF INTERVIEW, NAMELY THE CONSEQUENCES OF DROP IN OIL PRODUCTION FOR REGIONAL PEACE, IRAN'S EFFORTS TO HELP PROVIDE REGIONAL STABILITY, IRAN'S OWN SECURITY POSITION, AND PLEA TO DEVELOPED WORLD TO TAKE GREATER INITIATIVES TOWARD RESOLVING PROBLEMS OF POORER COUNTRIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00624 201243Z

COUNTRIES.

3. SHAH MADE VEILED HINT THAT IRAN MIGHT HAVE TO REDUCE ITS FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT AND CONCERN, PARTICULARLY IN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN, IF OIL PRODUCTION DROP COST IT REVENUES (PARA 4, REF A). HE IS MAKING POINT, THAT IRANIAN REACTION TO ATTEMPTS TO FORCE IT ECONOMICALLY TO THE SAUDI PRICE

MARK WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL. GOI HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED CUTBACK IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BASED ON EXPECTED BUDGETARY SHORTFALL, AND WHILE THIS MAY NOT REACH ANNOUNCED DIMENSIONS, IT WILL STILL BE A REDUCTION FROM ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED AMOUNTS (REF B). WHILE EMBASSY DOUBTS SHAH WOULD REACT AS MUCH AS HE HAS INDICATED, AND NEWSWEEK STATEMENT IS TO SOME EXTENT BLUFF, THERE IS NO DOUBT HERE THAT SHAH AND GOI BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT WAY OIL PRICE SITUATION IS EVOLVING AND LOSING THEIR CUSTOMARY CONFIDENCE TO SOME EXTENT. CALL FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES IS PART OF SAME ATTEMPT TO EASE WHAT IRANIANS SEE AS GROWING PRESSURES ON IRAN AND OTHER OPEC GOVERNMENTS TO BACK OFF FROM ANNOUNCED OIL PRICE INCREASES TO DETRIMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY POLICIES.

4. TWO ADDITIONAL ITEMS IN INTERVIEW DESERVE COMMENT, SHAH'S STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR REPROCESSING SEEMED MORE RELAXED THAN PREVIOUSLY. SHAH SAID IRAN "IS STICKING REGOROUSLY BY ALL IMPLICATIONS" OF NPT. CONCERNING IDEA OF REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING CENTER, SHAH'S STATEMENT SEEMED A BIT MORE FLEXIBLE THAN PREVIOUS GOI/AEOI COMMENTS: SHAH EMPHASIZED IRAN'S NEED FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WHILE SAYING, "IF A (REGIONAL REPROCESSING CENTER) IS ACCEPTED BY ALL" THEN IRAN WOULD GO ALONG WITH IT. HE THEN ADDED, "OTHERWISE, I WON'T EVEN ASK FOR THAT".

5. SECOND ITEM IS ALLUSION TO POSSIBILITY IRAN-SAUDI GOOD RELATIONS MIGHT NOT ALWAYS REMIIN DIVORCED FROM CONTRETEMPS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 00624 201243Z

OVER OIL POLICY (PARA 2 REF A). SHAH PROBABLY INTENDED HIS REMARKS AS INDICATION THERE ARE LIMITS TO IRINIAN NON-LINKAGE, BUT WHOLE PASSAGE IS EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF UNCERTAIN MOOD AND TO SOME EXTENT WHISTLING IN THE DARK NOW PREVAILING. GIVEN SHAH'S PRESENT UNCERTAINTY ON GENERAL EVOLUTION IN REGION AND U.S. INTENTIONS--THERE STILL REMAINS LINGERING AND REAL SUSPICION THAT U.S. ENGINEERED OR AT VERY LEAST SUPPORTED AUDI INTRANSIGENCE AT DOHA--EMBASSY BELIEVES SHAH IS SEARCHING FOR A HANDLE ON WHAT TO DO NEXT AND FEELING OUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH HIS CONCERNS, WELL-PUBLICIZED AS THEY ARE, DRAW HELPFUL REACTIONS FROM OTHERS.  
MIKLOS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TEHRAN00624  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770022-0029  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770132/aaaabbra.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f31b61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 77 TEHRAN 468, 76 TEHRAN A-223  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3544707  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHAH NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW RECEIVES MAJOR EXPOSURE HERE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, IR, NEWSWEEK, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f31b61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009